



Board of Education

City of Chicago

Frank M. Clark
PRESIDENT

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois 60602
(773) 553-1600 Fax (773) 553-3453

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June 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

As the President of the Chicago Board of Education, I strongly advocate for opportunities that enrich the lives of our students both socially and academically. The Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation is an organization that aspires to such a goal affording students from diverse communities the opportunity to engage in fun, rewarding, and safe out of school time chess programs.

Renaissance Knights has developed a meaningful partnership with CPS to provide youth chess enrichment programs, competition and tournaments for students. Through this collaborative effort, thousands of CPS students have developed the fundamental skills needed to be successful in school and life beyond the classroom -- life skills such as strategy, team building, analytic and critical thinking, and problem solving to name a few. Also, especially important for a district such as ours, this type of program offers students a safe place off the streets, where they can learn during the peak hours that juveniles are typically victims of crime or engage in criminal activity themselves.

In my role here at the Chicago Public Schools, there is nothing more important to me than the education and safety of our children. I enthusiastically support the efforts of Renaissance Knights as they seek to bring the benefits of chess to more schools and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank M. Clark".

Frank M. Clark
President